



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

AGENDA REPORT

"A City that Works"

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: G. Steve Simonian, City Manager *GS*
BY: Robert E. Barnes, Chief of Police *RE Barnes*
SUBJECT: RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc. Agreement
DATE: September 26, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council of the City of Bell Gardens receive and file this report on RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc. regarding automated red light camera enforcement, and approve staff recommendation to discontinue service at the end of the existing three year term effective March 29, 2012.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In response to a City Council request to report on the effectiveness of the automated red light camera program and status of the existing agreement, I directed the Police Chief to complete the analysis contained in this agenda report. The City of Bell Gardens and RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc. entered into an exclusive agreement for a term of three years whereby Redflex would provide an automated red light camera enforcement system at the intersection of Florence Avenue and Eastern Avenue. The contract was approved by City Council on October 7, 2008, and the term of the agreement commenced with the issuance of the system's first citation on March 30, 2009. The agreement may be extended for a period of two (2) year terms with a 30 day written notice to RedFlex Traffic Systems prior to the agreement expiration date of March 29, 2012.

The primary purpose of the red light camera enforcement system was to help reduce injury and/or deaths that occur from traffic collisions caused by motorists running red lights, as part of an overall community safety program. The existing red light enforcement program was designed to be "cost neutral" meaning it was not intended to be a source of revenue for the City. To date, 95% of the funds collected from verifiable violations have been paid to RedFlex Traffic Systems for operating the cameras. The remaining 5% of funds collected have been utilized to partially offsets costs of personnel to manage the system.

In analyzing the feasibility of maintaining our current program, accident data was gathered dating back to January 2008. This information is reflected in the chart below:

Year	Injury Accidents	Non-Injury Accidents	Total Accidents	Citations Issued
2008	2	26	28	
2009	3	17	20	3,783
2010	2	14	16	2,530
2011 (Jan – Aug)	2	8	10	6,313

This chart depicts a moderate decrease in the overall number of accidents each year since implementation of the system; however, no change has been recognized in the overall number of injury accidents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As previously stated, the red light camera system is "cost neutral" meaning it is not a revenue producing program, and the City is not obligated to pay more than the monthly fee of \$12,000 per month for the service, if funds collected from citations are less than the monthly fee. The police department has, however, incurred additional costs that were not anticipated when the original agreement was signed. On average it takes 20 hours of employee time per week to manage the system at a cost of approximately \$728.50 per week or \$87,420 to date. Funds collected in excess of the monthly fee due RedFlex Traffic Systems have only partially absorbed these costs, with remaining costs coming from the police department personnel budget.


CONCLUSION:

The red light camera program has contributed to a moderate decrease in the overall number of accidents; however, no change in the overall number of injury accidents. Furthermore, the police department has recognized unanticipated personnel costs to manage the program. Based on this analysis, it is my opinion that even though some positive gain has been recognized, it is not significant enough of a community safety benefit to justify the continuation of the program beyond the existing three year agreement term that expires on March 29, 2012, given the additional staff time involved to manage the system, and the associated personnel costs.


ATTACHMENTS:

None


APPROVALS:



G. Steve Simonian
City Manager



Arnold Alvarez-Glasman
City Attorney



Will Koholokula
Director of Finance and Administrative Services